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17 December 1965

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

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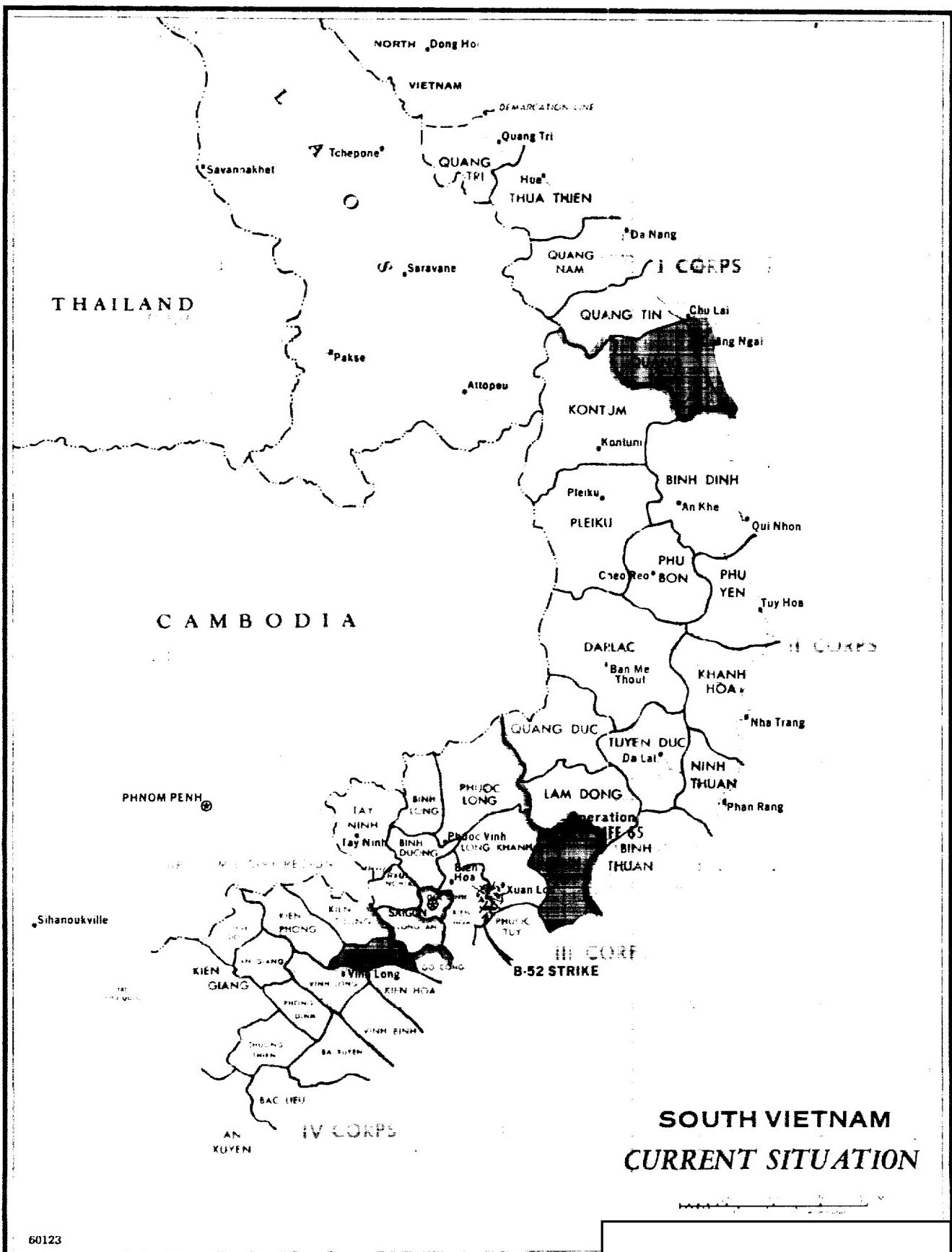
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*Vietnam: (Information as of 4:30 AM EST)

The Military Situation in South Vietnam: Communist activity is continuing in Quang Ngai Province. Yesterday the Viet Cong ambushed a combined US/South Vietnamese patrol operating in the southern part of the province. The patrol was almost overrun before a friendly relief column arrived. [Friendly losses are listed as 50 killed, 21 wounded and 18 missing. Viet Cong losses are unknown.] *Uncertainty figures
have yet been established.*

A Viet Cong attack on a Vietnamese outpost in the same area the day before was beaten off. The outpost's defenders killed 39 Communists and captured nine, who, according to press reports, are members of the 18th Regiment of the North Vietnamese 325th Division.

The Viet Cong are continuing their campaign of terror in the Saigon area. Hanoi radio described the bombing incident yesterday against a US Army intelligence compound in Saigon as "the latest in a series of attacks in the city in celebration of the fifth anniversary on 20 December of the founding of the National Front for the Liberation of South Vietnam."

Twenty-four B-52 Stratofortresses bombed a Viet Cong supply area about 25 miles east of Saigon on 15 December. A Viet Cong regiment and a Viet Cong battalion were believed to be in the target area. A ground follow-up operation was scheduled to start yesterday.

In Binh Tuy Province, OPERATION NEW LIFE 65 is due to terminate today. The operation, designed to secure the province's rice crop, began in late November. So far, friendly troops have killed

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22 Viet Cong (body count), captured 159 prisoners, and accepted 45 defectors. To date, the Viet Cong have killed two American soldiers and wounded nine.

Two popular force companies today made contact with an estimated Viet Cong battalion in Dinh Tuong Province. As yet no losses on either side have been reported.

Political Situation in South Vietnam: The Buddhists terminated their biennial organizational conference on 15 December with moderate Tam Chau remaining in charge of secular activities. During the conference, there was some internal friction over charges of corruption and political involvement on the part of monks, as well as debate over the alleged responsibility of US Marines for the recent desecration of a pagoda. However, there were no indications that the Buddhists will become a serious disruptive factor in South Vietnam in the near future.

Africa-UK: [The radical African states are implementing the OAU resolution to break relations with the UK, but it is too early to tell whether they can stampede the majority of African countries into similar action.]

[Most African leaders would prefer to avoid a break and are deferring action pending the outcome of a possible OAU foreign ministers' conference next week. They still hope for some new British initiative toward Rhodesia that will satisfy Africa's minimum demands.]

[Tanzania's President Nyerere, a principal agitator for firm OAU action, broke with the UK as a matter of "Africa's honor" but he intends to minimize the economic effects. He will permit a few British diplomats to remain in Dar es Salaam with the Canadian Embassy, will allow the UK the full use of Tanzanian facilities in support of Zambia, and intends to remain in the Commonwealth for the time being. He has assured the 1,200 British members of the Tanzanian civil service of their safety.]

[Ghana's Nkrumah appears to have made his decision just before the 15 December deadline when he became persuaded that at least some other states were going ahead. He was concerned above all about maintaining his "vanguard" position among African nationalists. Unlike Nyerere, Nkrumah evidently contemplates an early departure from the Commonwealth as well. However, his speech yesterday kept the door open for Ghana to attend the Commonwealth meeting on Rhodesia proposed by Nigeria for next month.]

[Accra apparently intends these actions as dramatic political gestures that it hopes will not entail significant economic consequences. Foreign Minister Quaison-Sackey told the British on 15 December that Ghana

(continued)

wished to retain its trade personnel and education officer in the UK. Normal consular operations may also continue. The future of British and Commonwealth aid programs in Ghana--especially the important technical assistance being provided the Ghanaian Air Force and Navy--has become uncertain, although London will probably seek to preserve as many ties as possible.]

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France: Recent polls indicate De Gaulle will be re-elected in the 19 December presidential runoff.

Subsequent to the polls, which gave him 50-55 percent of the vote, De Gaulle appears to have made some gains as a result of his latest TV interviews. These may be offset, however, by centrist Jean Lecanuet's public appeal to his followers not to vote for the general. Lecanuet left his voters "freedom of judgment" as to whether to cast a blank ballot or vote for Mitterrand.

The US Embassy in Paris feels that Mitterrand's position has probably slipped somewhat from the 45 percent accorded him in the most reliable poll. Many of his supporters evince no great enthusiasm for him personally, and his campaign has yet to generate the excitement that would enable him to make major gains among the 22 percent of voters still undecided.

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*Dominican Republic: The provisional government is aware of extremist attempts to exploit the current labor unrest and appears determined to resist the demands of striking government workers for a larger Christmas bonus.

The Garcia Godoy regime, however, took little action to curb the Communist-led mobs which engaged in widespread agitation in Santo Domingo yesterday. The turbulence included the stoning of Inter-American Peace Force (IAPF) troops, disruption of traffic and attempts to force other civil servants to join the walkout. The National Police, who probably do not relish the job of taking on the strikers, claim the provisional regime has not given them adequate guidance to deal with the disturbances.

[The pro-Peking Dominican Popular Movement, which reportedly was planning to launch a "popular war" this week, hopes to expand the walkout into a general strike.] The extremists realize that they have a popular issue to exploit and evidently hope to take advantage of the momentum the strike gained yesterday to spread demonstrations and incidents.

While Garcia Godoy is alert to the importance of demonstrating that his government controls the situation, violence could easily ensue if he attempts to use Dominican forces against the strikers. The president may well hope that a situation develops in which he could call on the IAPF, thereby avoiding the use of his own troops.

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*Bolivia: [Junta co-President Barrientos has finally secured political backing for his presidential candidacy, and a new date for elections reportedly will be announced.]

[four center-left parties signed a pact on 15 December creating the Front of the Revolution, an electoral alliance to back Barrientos in his quest for the presidency. Barrientos has long considered the creation of such a front essential before a date for elections could be set. Luis Adolfo Siles, a respected political moderate, has been named as Barrientos' vice presidential running mate, and congressional seats have already been apportioned.]

[Elections reportedly will now be held next September instead of June as heretofore anticipated, and the new government will be inaugurated on 4 November 1966.]

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NOTES

Communist China - Austria: Communist China has announced that it will purchase an oxygen-process steel plant from Austria, reportedly part of a massive new steel complex to be obtained from Western sources. The contract for this modern plant, said to be worth \$12 million, has been several years in the making, and provides for participation by French and West German firms. The Chinese recently purchased a small West German oxygen plant--presumably for this steel complex--and further deals are under negotiation.

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Indonesia: The army, assuming an ever-widening role in Indonesian affairs, has now banned the PKI in 12 out of a total of 25 provinces or regions. Yesterday it also secured the dissolution of Sukarno's Supreme Economic Command, the functions of which have been taken over by the army-controlled Supreme Operations Command (KOTI). Army commander Suharto also announced yesterday that cabinet ministers--presumably Communists and crypto-Communists--would be among those brought before the military tribunal set up to try persons implicated in the 1 October insurrection.

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NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE ESTIMATE

The United States Intelligence Board on 16 December 1965 approved the following national intelligence estimates:

NIE 89-65, "Venezuela," [Redacted]

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NIE 54/59-65, "Prospects for Malaysia
and Singapore," [Redacted]

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The Special Assistant for National Security Affairs

The Scientific Adviser to the President

The Director of the Budget

The Department of State

The Secretary of State

The Under Secretary of State

The Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs

The Deputy Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs

The Counselor and Chairman of the Policy Planning Council

The Director of Intelligence and Research

The Treasury Department

The Secretary of the Treasury

The Under Secretary of the Treasury

The Department of Defense

The Secretary of Defense

The Deputy Secretary of Defense

The Secretary of the Army

The Secretary of the Navy

The Secretary of the Air Force

The Assistant Secretary of Defense (International Security Affairs)

The Assistant Secretary of Defense

The Chairman, The Joint Chiefs of Staff

Chief of Naval Operations, United States Navy

Chief of Staff, United States Air Force

Chief of Staff, United States Army

Commandant, United States Marine Corps

U.S. Rep., Military Committee and Standing Group, NATO

Supreme Allied Commander, Europe

Commander in Chief, Pacific

Commander in Chief, Atlantic

The Director, Defense Intelligence Agency

The Director, The Joint Staff

The Assistant Chief of Staff for Intelligence, Department of Army

The Director of Naval Intelligence, Department of Navy

The Assistant Chief of Staff, Intelligence, Department of the Air Force

The Department of Justice

The Attorney General

The Federal Bureau of Investigation

The Director

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

The Administrator

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